



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

Guidance Regarding Visits to Individual or Family Homes
Issued 3-24-2020

This guidance provides helpful information for providers and staff that provide services in an individual or family home. This guidance also applies to DDS Family Support Workers.

Prior To All In-Home Visits –Staff or supervisors should contact the individual/family to ask the following:

- Did anyone in the household travel out of the country within the last 2-6 weeks?
- Is anyone currently ill or experiencing upper respiratory and gastrointestinal virus symptoms (i.e., cough, sneezing, runny nose, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chest or abdominal pain, etc.), recent influenza or pneumonia, recent hospitalization, anyone with compromised immune system, diagnosed with/or surveillance for COVID-19, exposure to anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has anyone been on isolation or quarantine, etc?

Should there be an affirmative response to either of these questions the individual should contact their medical provider and IHS services should be postponed or cancelled. Providers should work with the person’s team to ensure the individual’s needs are addressed in some other way, including but not limited electronic face to face, telephone, remote supports, or limited direct face to face support when necessary.

Individual Health and Wellness Check-In- Either in-person or through a tele-option, staff should be checking in on the health and wellness of the individuals they support.

- Questions to help guide this check-in can be referenced in the attached document titled “*Health and Wellness Check-in Questions*”- see attached

Community Based Activities - Based on Governor Lamont’s order that suspends all non-essential, in-person operations statewide, all routine or non-emergent activities in public community settings should be cancelled.

Medical Appointments –All critical or emergency medical appointments should continue. Staff should assure that they, and the individual supported, keep 6 feet from others whenever possible and wash hands before, during, and following the appointment.

1:1 Support in the Home- These activities may continue with the appropriate protocols as described above, in-place. DDS encourages staff and providers to work with individuals and families to review technological options. For more information on what is available please review:

- “*Emergency Individualized Home Support Guidelines*” issued on 3/19/20- see attached
- “*Mode of Service Provision*” issued on 3/20/20- see attached

DDS continues to communicate any updates regarding COVID-19 with individuals, families and providers. To review all DDS communications please visit the DDS homepage at <https://portal.ct.gov/DDS> under “COVID-19 Updates for DDS Individuals and Families” and “COVID-19 Updates for DDS Providers”.

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